

Knights Life



www.kofc8157.org

Holy Spirit Catholic Church – Duncanville, Tx,



EASTER IN A TIME OF CRISES

Easter Sunday, the Resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, is the crowning truth of our faith. Christ's Resurrection is the fulfillment of prophecies and promises of the Old Testament and foundation and core belief of the New Testament. The Paschal Mystery has two aspects: by his death he eliminates us from original sin and death; by his Resurrection he restores us to everlasting life:

"Death is swallowed up in his victory. Where O Death, is your victory? Where O Death Is your sting?"

I Corinthians 15:55

"If Christ had not been raised then our faith and our preaching is in vain and your faith is also in vain"

I Corinthians 15:14

Jesus taught that ultimately evil and death, even natural plagues and disasters are caused by Original Sin. Jesus, by his death and resurrection freed us from the effects of what sin produced; separation from God.

We live in an unprecedented time. As far as I know, there has never been a period where all public Christian worship was banned throughout the whole world since the foundation of the Church's two thousand year history; especially at Easter time!

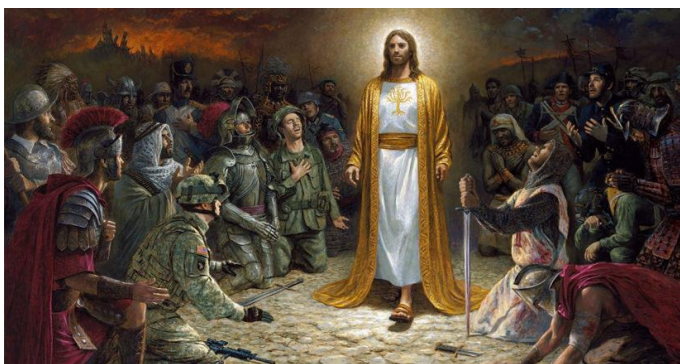
An invisible enemy, a virus has sickened and killed thousands. But there other invisible enemies, more lethal, of a supernatural kind that is threatening to kill millions of souls.

Once all reference to God has been removed, it is not surprising that the true meaning of human life becomes distorted. It reveals itself at the beginning of life through abortion, and at end of life through euthanasia; the "culture of death".

"I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord," no one comes to the father except through me."

John 14:6

People search for health and "life" in many ways that keeps us separated from God: chasing the wind of temporary pleasures, piling up possessions of money and material things, trying to hide from the inevitable effects of aging and being anxious about every possible turn of events, seen and unseen.



Prayer for Protection in time of Pandemic

O Mary,
you always brighten our path
as a sign of salvation and of hope.
We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick,
who, at the Cross, took part in Jesus' pain
while remaining steadfast in faith.

O loving Mother,
you know what we need,
and we are confident you will provide for us
as at Cana in Galilee.

Intercede for us with your Son Jesus,
the Divine Physician,
for those who have fallen ill,
for those who are vulnerable,
and for those who have died.

Intercede also for those charged with
protecting the health and safety of others
and for those who are tending to the sick
and seeking a cure.

Help us, O Mother of Divine Love,
to conform to the will of the Father
and to do as we are told by Jesus,
who took upon himself our
sufferings and carried our sorrows,
so as to lead us, through the Cross,
to the glory of the Resurrection. Amen.

*Under thy protection we seek refuge,
O Holy Mother of God.*

*In our needs, despise not our petitions,
but deliver us always from all dangers,
O glorious and blessed Virgin. Amen.*

Adapted from the prayer of Pope Francis



*“Come to me all who weary and are heavily
labored, and I will give you rest....for my
burden is easy and my yoke is light.”*

Matthew 11:28-30

Empires, regimes, cultures, even the fall of entire civilizations have taken place throughout history. Those living in the Lord turn pain, illnesses, afflictions and fear of death into becoming fortified in this life and hopeful for the next. They know that the risen Christ shall dress them in glory for all eternity.

*“Be anxious for nothing, but in everything be
prayerful with thanksgiving let your requests
be made known to the Lord.”*

Paul (Philippians 4:6)

As Knights of Columbus the Lord's charity is in us and works through us. The good Christian is neither concerned with the vanities of time nor broken by its misfortunes. The virtuous man knows that his works transcends the here and now. We make use of sorrows and sufferings of this life growing in patient endurance and being charitable to our fellow man, and thereby glorify God.

This Easter, especially this Easter, let all us all work to bring everyone back to the Lord.

SK Wendell Jeanpierre, Lecturer

KofC Council 8157

About our Council

Council Monthly Meetings

General Meeting every 1st Tuesday 7:30pm
Officer's & Directors every 3rd Tuesday 7:30pm

Postal address and meeting location

1111 W Danieldale Rd. Room 221
Duncanville Tx, 75116 USA
972-298-4971

KC District 86 - Assembly 2799

The council Officers listed below were officially installed for their 1nd term in office on July 2, 2019. Their term runs through June 2020

Grand Knight	Tom Greco
Deputy Grand Knight	Jorge Ruiz
Chancellor	Eric Conner
Recording Secretary	Mike Fitzgerald
Treasurer	James Smith
Warden	Doug Maddox
Inside Guard	John Espree
Outside Guard	
Financial Secretary	Peter Perta
Advocate	Russell Gully
Chaplin	Fr. Joe Lee
Trustees	Chris Kubin, Jim Richardson Chris Edwards

Service Program Directors

Awareness Committee	Jorge Ruiz
Concessions	Allen Reitmeier
Church Activities	James Smith
Community Activities	Dan Murphy
Family Activities	Open
Health Activities	Lou Lemons
Pro-Like Activities	Mike Moloughney
Youth Activities	Mike Moloughney

Knight Hands
Retention
Membership
Council Activities

Allen Reitmeier
Jorge Ruiz
Open
Open

Knights Life Newsletter

Our Newsletter is published quarterly at the end of the following months: March, June, September, and December. The Newsletter is delivered electronically to your email address and is posted on our website. If you would like to receive a paper copy, they will be available at the general meeting.

Newsletter Editor and Publisher Allen Reitmeier

Newsletter & Website Writers
Jeff Miller, Allen Reitmeier, Jorge Ruiz

Newsletter and Website Photographer
Allen Reitmeier, Jorge Ruiz, Leon Cornute

Council Website

Website address	kofc8157.org
Website Editor	Jorge Ruiz
Website Admins	Jorge Ruiz

Email Communications

Emails are sent to our members on a regular basis. Make sure you add the email address below to your contact list so our emails do not go to you junk/span folder.

Email address: admin@kofc8157.org

Membership Rosters

A full membership roster is available in paper form to all Knights in good stand at the general meeting

Bringing our Church to you

During the initial stages of Social Distancing orders, our council helped bring our Church to parishioners with a recording of Fr. Eugene's Mass and sharing it on YouTube. You can see this anytime by going to our website and clicking on Mass at Holy Spirit Church, Father Eugene Okoli, Celebrant.



Our council also hired videographer Diana Rizo to record the Stations of the Cross – you can also view this from our website by clicking on Stations of the Cross at Holy Spirit Catholic Church. Deacon Al Evans conducts this ceremony



Equally important we compiled a list of HELP resources which are open to anyone. To access these resources go to our website and on the home page click on Community Help Resources. It is our hope the links on this page will lead those in need of help to the right resources.

CITY OF DUNCANVILLE DISASTER PREPAREDNESS & RESPONSE

FOOD LINKS

HOUSING & UTILITIES

K OF C COUNCIL 8157 HELP

RESTAURANT EMPLOYEE RELIEF FUND

UNEMPLOYMENT

Avail yourself of these helping agencies if you are in need

The Knights of Columbus Council #8157 website is www.kofc8157.org

Knight of the Month Jan 2020



Efrain Ochoa

It was 20 years ago this January that Efrain took his major degrees, only two months after joining the order. The Rio Grande Valley native

has been a versatile volunteer, one of our go-to guys as part of Knight Hands, council cookouts and at 8157 concession stands. His contributions to our “food services division” goes well beyond showing up when the events take place. Efrain often works days in advance preparing brisket, which has been a big hit with the customers. “I truly enjoy being around, hanging out with brother Knights and helping out whenever the need arises,” he said. Efrain is from the border town of Pharr and graduated from UT-Pan American (now called UT-Rio Grande Valley). He moved to Dallas in 1973. Efrain retired in November 2015 following 37 years with the City of Dallas, most recently as the project manager/coordinator of the engineering services division. He and wife Lisa have been married 25 1/2 years, live in Ovilla and have two sons, Carlos (24) and Nicholas (22).

Knight of the Month Feb 2020



Dan Murphy

Dan continues to be a regular contributor to the planning and execution of council activities long after his two-year term as our Grand Knight

(2002-04). He has been our director of

community activities for years, highlighted by our cookouts at St. Joseph’s Nursing Home in Oak Cliff, the seminarians at Holy Trinity in Irving and at the VA hospital in Dallas. Dan is from Irving, graduated from Jesuit College Prep (a member of the track team, he was inducted into the school’s athletic hall of fame in 2008) and then from the Naval Academy, where he majored in oceanography – and was on the track team. His leadership skills were evident to us early on; he joined the Knights in October 1998 and became our Chancellor two years later. Dan and Patty have been married since 1975. They have two daughters (Kimberly and Erin) and five grandchildren. The Murphys live in Duncanville, a short walk from Holy Spirit.

Knight of the Month Mar 2020

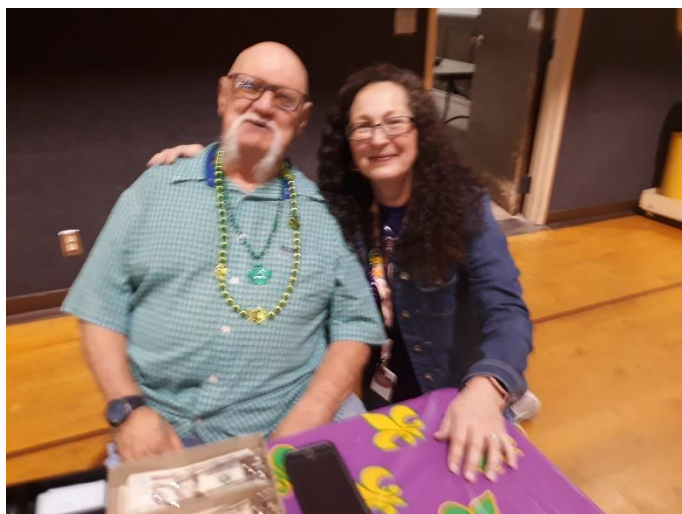


Jack Ramsden

Jack was one of dozens of Holy Spirit men over the years who were somewhat “convinced” by Andy Goza to join Council 8157. And Jack

honestly wondered if joining would be a waste of time. “I was so-o-o-o-o wrong,” Jack says. “It’s been a blast.” And we’ve likewise enjoyed and benefited from his presence. Obviously – he was selected last summer as our Knight of the Year. Jack had recently retired following 24 years running his on machine shop when he took his first degree in September 2012. The major degrees followed the following May. Jack and Juanita came through Holy Spirit’s RCIA program in 2009 and have been collectively involved in multiple parish ministries ever since. They live in Duncanville and have four children and seven grandchildren. Jack is a staple of the council’s Knight Hands work force and is usually among the first to arrive for activities such as fish fries and pancake breakfasts.

Children's Mardi Gras



Do you know that the traditional colors of Mardi Gras are purple, green and gold? These colors were found in abundance during the children's Mardi Gras celebration this past Sunday February 22nd, 2020 in the community center gymnasium. There was a wide assortment of beads, plus a face painting station and a table to assemble masks and crowns for the kids plus a photo booth. These festivities were orchestrated by Deborah Pearson and carried out by the Confirmation/First Communion families who manned these stations. There were children everywhere enjoying the festivities.



Of course, the Knights of Columbus played a crucial role in all these festivities in that they provided a pancake breakfast from 8:15 am until 12:30pm. The fare included pancakes (of course), waffles, bacon,

sausage and drinks. John Espree even found a faster way to make the pancakes; he used the large grill – way to go John. All the Knights of Columbus activity was directed by our Church activity director – James Smith.

Thank you Jack Ramsden, John Balasa, John Espree, Pat Stepniewski, Jesse Radillo, Jim Russell, Jeff Miller, Allen Reitmeier, Doug Maddox, Ken Rarick, Mario Mejia and, of course, James Smith for coming out at 6:15am to prepare the breakfast. We served about 160 people.



Mardi Gras has been around since 1699 in this country when French-Canadian explorer Jean Baptiste Le Moyne Sieur de Bienville arrived at a plot of ground 60 miles directly south of New Orleans, and named it "**Pointe du Mardi Gras**". When his men realized it was the eve of the festive holiday, they had a party. Of course the celebration of Mardi Gras marks the beginning of the season of Lent where we prepare ourselves for the most singular and greatest event in the history of the world – the resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

The 2020 Deacon Congress

On Saturday March 7th, the 2020 Deacon Congress was hosted by Holy Spirit Catholic Church in Duncanville, Texas. A couple of hundred Deacons and their wives from the Dallas Diocese were in attendance as keynote speaker **Deacon Paul Lavellee** (see below) addressed the attentive audience on the topic of ***Spirituality of the Deacon in his Ministry and***

Daily Life. At the same time in the adjacent dining room, Mr. Gabriel Hernandez was giving the same talk to the Spanish speaking audience.



For the Deacons and their wives the day started bright and early at 7:30 AM with a full breakfast provided by Knights of Columbus Council 8157, who started their own morning a bit earlier in order to prepare scrambled eggs, sausage, bacon, pancakes, biscuits, fresh fruit and coffee for the couple of hundred expected guests. Under the leadership of Church Activities Director James Smith, and the participation of some of our most reliable and experienced knights like Dan Murphy, Allen Reitmeier, Jack Ramsden, John Espree, Jim Russell, Keith Archer, Wendell JeanPierre, Jim Stavinoha, Carlos Limones, Eric Conner and Jorge Ruiz, both the great quality of the food and its timely delivery were a foregone conclusion.



The four Deacons from Holy Spirit Parish were in attendance including, Deacon Al Evans, Paul Wood,

Charlie Ruelas, and Gene Freeman, all were accompanied by their wives.

The event culminated at 3 PM after a mass given by Bishop Kelly at Holy Spirit's main sanctuary, where the recently added Corpus of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ was on display in its full glory.

About Deacon Paul Lavellee

Deacon Paul Lavellee is an ordained deacon from the Diocese of Austin, Texas. He has been a deacon for almost 20 years and has been an active retreat giver for 13 years. He is an approved Spiritual Director for the Diocese of Austin, and has been assisting in spiritual guidance for over 30 years. He is presently part of the Austin Diocese Diaconate Formation Program assisting men in discerning their call to the Diaconate and helping the men develop a deeper Catholic spirituality. He served on the Diocesan Liturgical Board for 25 years. He is active in his own parish in Marble Falls, Texas where he serves as a deacon, is involved with the St Vincent de Paul Society, and is active in and a board member of the Kolbe Prison Ministry.



Family of the Month Jan. 2020



**Keith
and
Mary
Archer**

When you next help at a council event in

Holy Spirit's gymnasium, you'll be near the spot where the Archers met. That happened at a parish singles activity, playing volleyball. Keith grew up in Oklahoma City and headed south for the Dallas area in his mid-20s. He has been a product manager for Weldon Parts for almost 40 years. Mary works for AT&T in Dallas. They've teamed up at council breakfasts and the Valley Ridge concession stands. Keith is a member of the parish's ACTS core team, and they have been involved in RCIA. While some of us are sleeping in on Saturday mornings, Keith is part of the Dallas Diocese Prison Ministry at the county jail. He joined the Knights in April 2018, took his major degrees two months later, and is also a Fourth Degree. The Archers live in Dallas.

Family of the Month Feb. 2020



**Jim and
Denise
Richardson**

Jim was a junior at St. Augustine Catholic High School in Laredo

and Denise was a freshman when they met. Leave it to a member of the Knights of Columbus to be married on Columbus Day, in 1963. Jim's career took them to Washington, D.C., where he worked in the Reagan administration during the

1980s. They moved to DeSoto in 1990 in connection with the Super-Collider project that got started near Waxahachie but was discontinued a few years later. Jim was our council's Knight of the Year in 2014, our Grand Knight for 2016-18 and soon after served as the Faithful Navigator for Assembly 2799. He now serves as our 2nd-Year Trustee. Denise has been with the Carmelite Order for 30 years. The Richardsons have four children, 10 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren – with a sixth on the way.

Family of the Month Mar. 2020



**Larry
and
Sheila
Balagna**

The Balagnas celebrated their 47th anniversary in

late January. Larry and Sheila met at a bowling alley in Farmington, Ill., where they were on competing teams. Sheila said it was love at first strike for her but it took him a little while to come around. They came to our area in 1995. It was a year later that Larry joined the Knights, following in the footsteps of two of their three sons, and soon after took his major degrees; he's now also a Fourth Degree Knight. Larry and Sheila each retired in 2013, Larry as the event coordinator at Northwood University and Sheila as a credit manager for Gibraltar Industries. They're active parishioners. Larry is usually ready with a smile to open the sanctuary door as a hospitality minister for the Sunday 9 a.m. Mass. At council events, he's typically among the first to arrive and the last to leave. Sheila's volunteer work includes being a member of Holy Spirit's funeral ministry. Their sons live in Colorado, Illinois and Nebraska, and there are five granddaughters and one grandson.

Knights Engaging



It was a proud day for your Knights of Columbus as they got together on Thursday morning April 2nd, 2020 to cook a catfish lunch for the EMT's at **Methodist Charlton Medical Center** in Dallas. David Ybarra, Dan Murphy, James Smith, Jack Ramsden, Jeff Miller and Allen Reitmeier cooked and delivered 40 lbs. of catfish, a bunch of french fries, hush puppies and fixings (to include plates, plastic dinnerware, ketchup, one-of-a-kind tartar sauce, napkins and like that). Of course, we were not allowed into the hospital; but were met promptly (about 11:00 am) by representatives of the hospital EMT's (there are about 100 of these brave

folks). Dudley Wilcoxson thanked all of us a number of times and graciously took the food and even accepted a number of bags of cucumbers. He also allowed an interview with a reporter from *Texas Catholic*. It was an uplifting experience for both giver and receiver. Dudley assured us that all this food would be consumed.

And all the while we were cooking food, cleaning up the cooking area, cleaning and washing the dishes, tidying up the community center kitchen, we were constantly being photographed and videoed by Mike Gresham from *Texas Catholic*. We can probably correctly assume

there will be an article in one of the upcoming editions of *Texas Catholic*. James Smith was interviewed during this event and I, for one, am looking forward to reading what he had to say. We even had a surprise visit from a representative from Catholic Charities who also thanked us and sampled the catfish. In spite of the dangers of the COVID-19 virus, your brother Knights masked up, gloved up and stayed apart during this entire activity. This is the time to share as opposed to hoarding and to engage instead of withdrawing – your brothers Knights did both on this day. Thanks men.



Knights Engaging 2.0

One week after a group of Knights prepared and delivered a fish-fry lunch to the EMTs at Methodist Charlton Hospital, a similar group continued the council's service to our community during the current pandemic by preparing and delivering approximately **300 breakfast tacos** for the Charlton staff on the morning of April 9 (Holy Thursday).

The group was again headed by community activities director Dan Murphy and church activities director James Smith. Joining them were Efrain Ochoa, Jack Ramsden, Allen Reitmeier, Deputy Grand Knight Jorge Ruiz, David Ybarra and Jeff Miller. They prepared a savory batch of tacos that included scrambled

eggs, bacon, hash browns and cheese (alas, the cheese ran out with a few dozen tacos to go).



There was an additional recipient – a gentleman who had been laid off from his job days earlier came by the community center looking for the weekly distribution from the food pantry, which was closed on this special Thursday. After Jorge talked with the gentleman, he appropriately suggested that some tacos be given to the man for his hungry children.

Happy to help those in need.



Fish Fries Cut Short

Our Council had every intention of providing their usual Friday evening fish/shrimp dinner; but alas the coronavirus nixed that event after 3 weeks. Not quite as many families ate this years as in years past but for those that did the fare was outstanding as usual.



Dan Murphy and his minions took care of frying the catfish while James Smith and his crew cooked the rest of the stuff and served the mel as well. It takes a large number of Knights to pull off an event like this, and the members responding. Just during the second week alone 27 Knights worked including: Ray Rivera, Dan Schneider, David Ybarra, David Dybala, Mario Ramos, Dan Murphy, Jorge Ruiz, Allen Reitmeier, John Espree, Molly Paterson, Maben Reisling, Wendell Jeanpierre, James Smith, Jim Stavinocha, Eric Conner, Jim Richardson, Hector Lopez, Mike Fitzgerald, Ben Burns, Tim Burns, Keith Archer, Mary Arvher Rolando Sobalvarro, Peter Perta Arthur Rodriguez, Jose Montoya, and Tony Gonzalez. Many others worked other weeks as well.

